There was agreement that G 20 countries will fight protectionism and aim for a successful conclusion of the Doha Round in 2010. Also, on the Climate change the Leaders reaffirmed the primacy of the UNFCCC and agreed to cooperate for an agreed outcome at Copenhagen.

The Leaders also committed to implementing recovery plans that support decent work, help preserve employment, and prioritize job growth and to provide income, social protection, and training support for the unemployed and those most at risk of unemployment. One of the other major outcomes of the Pittsburgh Leaders' Summit has been to make the G-20 the premier multilateral forum for discussing international economic issues.

Restructuring rural credit delivery system

485. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to restructure the institutional architecture for the delivery of rural credit;

(b) whether there is a proposal to make National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), the apex regulator for the rural credit with coverage extending to the Regional Rural Banks (RRBs);

(c) if so, whether Government has instituted any study in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details of the terms of reference of such study?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) In order to reposition RRBs as an effective instrument of credit delivery, Government of India, in consultation with NABARD, the State Governments and the sponsor banks initiated a process for structural consolidation of RRBs by amalgamation of RRBs sponsored by the same bank within a State in September 2005. Consequent upon the amalgamation, the number of RRBs has been reduced from 196 to 84 as on date. The structural consolidation of RRBs has resulted in the formation of new RRBs which are financially stronger and bigger in size in terms of business volume and outreach, enabling them to take advantages of the economies of scale and reduce operational costs.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Cooperative and regional rural banks

†486. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.